



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities & Georgia

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Georgia received \$12.5 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Georgia Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples of projects since 2006.*

- Georgia's statehouse and its grounds receive more than 700,000 visitors annually. The **Georgia Capitol History Project**, funded by a grant of about \$40,000, uses digital multimedia tours to interpret the Capitol as a site for history and public memory.
- Over the past eighty years, the **Linguistic Atlas Project** has gathered information on everyday American English. A \$349,000 grant will make it possible for 6,400 hours of interviews from the 1960s to the 1990s to be digitized, stored, and made available to researchers and the public on the atlas website and on CD.
- The **New Georgia Encyclopedia**, created and supported by the Georgia Humanities Council, is an exemplary online resource of information about Georgia places, events, and traditions. The encyclopedia registers 1.3 million page views per month and is used in schools and universities throughout the state.
- Leveraging a \$200,000 challenge grant, the **High Museum of Art**, Atlanta, has raised \$650,000 in private funds to establish an endowment to support the position of head of museum interpretation. This key team member assists museum staff in developing innovative interpretive tools for visitors.
- A \$150,000 grant enabled sixteen college and university teachers to participate in a four-week residential summer seminar examining recent scholarship on the Civil War. The **American Civil War at 150: New Approaches** was organized by the Georgia Historical Society.
- Lyrrasis, a not-for-profit cooperative, received a \$450,000 grant for a regional field service preservation program providing education and training, information services, consultations, and disaster planning assistance to **libraries, archives, and cultural heritage organizations** in the Southeast.
- The **University of Georgia Research Foundation** received a \$50,000 start-up grant to support a telecollaborative foreign-language instruction project that includes high-definition video, audio, and textual bilingual exchanges between students in the United States and Russia.
- **Ossabaw Island**, a barrier island twenty minutes from Savannah by boat, was home to an African-American community for more than two centuries. The Ossabaw Island Foundation received a grant of \$40,000 to develop a long-term outdoor exhibit on the community's history from enslavement to emancipation and into the twentieth century.
- The Atlanta-Fulton Public Library Foundation received two grants totaling \$10,800 for the preservation of 1,488 items in the **Margaret Mitchell Collection** that document the life and work of the author of *Gone with the Wind*.
- At Valdosta State University, the Georgia Humanities Council funds the **Veterans Oral History Project**, in which teachers and students learn interviewing and transcription skills before recording the stories of Georgia's WWII veterans. Transcripts are preserved in the Valdosta State University archives and at the Library of Congress.



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# Humanities Nationwide

*NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans. Here are a few examples.*

## **PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY**

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

## **AMERICAN VOICES**

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

## **SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK**

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced more than 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone's *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including eighteen Pulitzer Prizes.

## **PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS**

NEH investments in the digital humanities make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3-D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging has been used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

## **GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT**

Almost \$2 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

## **HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN**

NEH-supported films, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's seven-part *The War* (2007), and ten million saw *The Abolitionists* (2013). NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reach classrooms across the country.

## **KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE**

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,100 college teachers and 7,500 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

## **REACHING ACROSS THE NATION**

Last year, state humanities councils, NEH's affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 16,800 reading and discussion programs, 6,500 literacy programs, 4,000 speakers bureau presentations, 5,400 conferences, 1,750 Chautauqua events, 24,000 media programs, and 7,300 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 2,300 exhibitions.